

Children with Special Health Care Needs  
ABLE Program  
PO Box 144660  
Salt Lake City, UT. 84114-4660

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Principal,

We of the ABLE Program under the Utah State Department of Health have appreciated the opportunity to be in your school and work together with you on behalf of one of your challenging students.

When helping special-needs children and families, we especially like working to assure a child's sense of belonging, to promote recognition of achievement, and to build the child and family's sense of identity.

*We are very interested in joining with you in collaboratively bringing together community services for troubled children. We promote strengthening parent-school partnerships, while simultaneously enhancing motivational use of the family's own cultural resources.*

We draw on the Medical Home concept, which promotes having a health provider who participates in each special needs child's educational and community functions. In addition, we use collaborative team methods, similar to the familiar Families and Agencies Coming Together (FACT) model, to utilize and coordinate various needed personnel and resources in the child's natural environment.

Many schools throughout the Salt Lake Valley and beyond have shown interest over the past two decades in helping develop interdisciplinary teams of school personnel and other community members to support and advocate for especially difficult children. We also share expertise in availability and use of extensive community resources to help formulate such teams. We encourage you and your staff to use our informative community-based web site at [www.health.utah.gov/able/](http://www.health.utah.gov/able/).

We have found the attached article, ABC of Children's Mental Health/NASP (under the "protective factors" described), central to building a secure base for each child. Hopefully, this information will be helpful to you. We are hopeful these resources will reinforce your thinking about interventions and helpful ways to engage and collaborate with children, parents and teachers.

It is our hope we were of assistance in the staffing today, and feel confident we can offer significant support in your school's challenge that "no child should be left behind." We encourage your investment in Teaming for Children and dedicate our purposes in participating with you.

If you would like our consultation and support in sharing these ideas together, particularly in providing assistance to your various teams how to provide wraparound services for some of your most complex and multi-needs students and families, please let us know by calling the ABLE Program Manager, at 801-584-8573.

Yours in Collaboration, the ABLE Program Team

